

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 0565

SECDEF FOR ISA

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SUBJECT: DEPSECDEF CLEMENTS DISCUSSIONS WITH GNZ OFFICIALS

REF SECDEF 010120Z MAR 75

1. COUNTRY TEAM RECOMMENDS FOLLOWING DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR TALKS WITH GNZ OFFICIALS: A) SECURITY OVERVIEW WITH EMPHASIS ON PACIFIC/SOUTHEAST ASIA; B) GNZ ROLE IN FIVE POWER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION (FPDA) AND SEATO; C) NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP (NPW) VISITS; D) TROOP EXCHANGES AND TRAINING PROGRAMS; E) FUTURE OF TRUST TERRITORY OF PACIFIC ISLANDS (TTPA); AND F) DEEPFREEZE AND MT. JOHN OPERATION.

2. SECURITY OVERVIEW-GNZ OFFICIALS WILL WANT TO HEAR GENERAL ANALYSIS OF US VIEW OF WORLD SECURITY SITUATION WITH EMPHASIS ON ASIA/PACIFIC PROBLEMS.

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3. GNZ ROLE IN FPDA-LABOUR PARTY MANIFIESTO CALLED FOR EARLY GNZ WITHDRAWAL FROM FPDA AND SEATO BUT GOVERNMENT WAS DISSUADED FROM SO DOING BY FORMER MINISTER OF DEFENSE FAULKNER. GNZ NOW COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING LOW PROFILE IN SEATO AND TO CONTINUED PRESENCE IN SINGAPORE/MALAYSIA AS LONG AS THIS IS SATISFACTORY TO GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED. PART OF GNZ RATIONALE FOR STAYING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IS THAT THIS PRESENCE MAKES IT POLITICALLY EASIER FOR US TO MAINTAIN FORCES IN THE AREA. IN THIS CONNECTION, USG STRONG DESIRE THAT GNZ ASSUME MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SENOKO OIL DEPOT AND BERTHS SIX AND SEVEN AT STORES BASIN IN SINGAPORE SHOULD BE PRIMARY TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION. USN NEEDS SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED AND RATIONALE FULLY EXPLORED IN MEETINGS WITH GNZ OFFICIALS. DEPUTY SECRETARY SHOULD EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO GNZ SEATO AND FPDA COMMITMENTS.

4. NPW VISITS-AMBASSADOR HOPES TO TAKE UP THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE WITH PRIME MINISTER ROWLING PRIOR TO DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VISIT. IF MEETING IS ARRANGED WE WILL CABLE RESULTS TO PARTY ENROUTE. IN ANY CASE, DURING MEETINGS WITH GNZ OFFICIALS, MR. CLEMENTS SHOULD STRESS USG ACCEPTANCE OF TOTAL LIABILITY IN CASE OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT ACCIDENTS AS WELL AS INCREASING ROLE OF NPWS IN MODERN NAVY AND NEED TO MAKE PORT CALLS IN NEW ZEALAND.

5. TROOP EXCHANGES AND TRAINING-BOTH USG AND GNZ DEFENSE LEADERS HAVE BEEN PLEASED BY RESULTS OF PLATTON EXCHANGES AND TRAINING PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN DURING PAST TWO YEARS. OUR INTEREST IN CONTINUING AND ENLARGING THESE EXCHANGES SHOULD BE RE-EMPHASIZED DURING DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS' VISIT.

6. FUTURE OF TTPI-DISCUSSION OF THIS TOPIC SHOULD STRESS IMPORTANCE OF TTPI AREA TO OVERALL SECURITY IN THE PACIFIC. DEPUTY SECRETARY SHOULD STRONGLY URGE GNZ SUPPORT AT UN WHEN MARIANAS' ISSUE COMES UP FOR DEBATE.

7. DEEPFREEZE AND MT. JOHN OPERATIONS- DEPUTY SECRETARY
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SHOULD STRESS US APPRECIATION FOR NEW ZEALAND COOPERATION IN DEEPFREEZE AND MT. JOHN OPERATIONS. PARTY SHOULD BE PREPARED TO BRIEF GNZ ON PLANS FOR CIVILIAN OPERATIONS OF MR JOHN.
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